

Chapter II. Production.

Forests.
*Honávar and
Bhatkal.*

They contain fair teak, chiefly at Hinnur and Kodáni; also *matti*, *kindal*, *honi*, *jamba*, *nandi*, *hedde*, *ságdi*, *holedasal*, and *kumbia*, many of them five or six feet in girth. There are a few small evergreen forests and a good deal of the *tálipat* palm *Corypha umbraculifera*.

The Hegar-Manki group in the south-west is an inferior leaf-shedding forest. It includes the forest lands of eight villages¹ with an approximate area of thirty square miles and a population of about 6700 of the same castes as in the Hinnur-Gersappa group. The trees are also the same but thinner and not nearly so well grown. There is a good deal of *khair* *Acacia Catechu*, and teak occurs at Heggár. The Jánkadkal-Mahime group in the north-east from the Shirávati to the Sahyádris, includes the lands of sixteen villages,² with an area of about sixty square miles. It is a very fine evergreen forest with all the varieties found on the Gersappa hills including the poonspar and the *tálipat* palm. There was formerly much wood-ash tillage near the village of Mahime.

The Salkod-Mallápur group in the north-west is of mixed leaf-shedding and evergreen forest. It includes the lands of ten villages with an area of about twenty square miles.³ The evergreen forests of Sálkod are good, and the other nine villages in the north-west have teak mixed with fine *honi*, *matti*, *kindal*, *hirda*, *nandi*, *jamba*, and much *tálipat* palm. *Khair* prevails everywhere, except in the evergreen forests. The only parts of the Honávar forests which have been worked for sale are about Jankadkal. The large bamboo seeded in 1863-64 and the fresh crop is now fit for use. The Bhatkal forests have an area of about ninety square miles and a population of about 31,000 of the same classes as in Honávar. The forests have nearly all been destroyed by wood-ash tillage. The best, chiefly of leaf-shedding trees, are about Kop and Gundalkatta fifteen miles north-east of Bhatkal. There is much *khair* everywhere and at Bailur, twelve miles north of Bhatkal on the coast, there are about 800 sandal trees. There are a few bamboos chiefly near Hadil. They seeded in 1863-64 and the fresh crop is now fit for use. The minor products of the Honávar and Bhatkal forests are catechu or *kát*, cinnamon or *dálchini*, wild nutmeg or *jajikai*, wild pepper, honey, the vegetable-ivory or *bájerbetta*, the seeds of the *Corypha umbraculifera*, and a few myrobalans and soapnuts. All, except the myrobalans and soapnuts, are farmed.

Liquor-yielding
Trees.

The chief liquor-yielding tree is the cocoa-palm, *tenginmar*, *Cocos nucifera*. It is common along the coast and is grown to a limited extent above the Sahyádris, but for its nuts not for its juice. In Kárwár, Kumta, Ankola, and Honávar there are luxuriant cocoa-palm gardens. Near the coast in favourable soil and inland in valleys and well watered lands, the trees begin to bear in six or seven years, but on high lands and in hard and dry soil they do not

¹ The villages are Heggár, Kota, Sasikodla, Adikekuli, Chittar, Tálgod, Gunavanti, and Manki.

² The villages are Jánkadkal, Kabbinhakkal, Nágintivra, Hanehalli, Sarlige, Upponi, Allanki, Kelgin-Mudkani, Melin-Mudkani, Harvalli, Karki, Kervalli, Chikkankod, Mavinkurve, Melin-Mahime, and Mahime.

³ The villages are Salkod, Mallápur, Chendávar, Kekkár, Kadtoka, Hodkesirur, Vandár, Nílkod, Kalche, and Kadle.

begin to bear until they are ten or eleven years old. Palms go on bearing nuts and yielding juice till they are fifty or sixty years old. Bráhmans in many cases own cocoa-palm gardens. They do not themselves tap or make liquor, but they have no scruple in letting their trees to licensed drawers and liquor farmers. Other palm owners are Hálepalks in the coast tracts of Kumta and Honávar, and Bhandáris in Ankola and Kárwár. They have no objection to their trees being tapped and themselves freely engage in tapping and liquor-making. Cocoa-palms have never been separately assessed in Kánara. The garden rates which are levied on the land were considered assessment enough. Similarly the tapping was a matter of private arrangement between the owners of trees and the farmers of liquor-shops. From the 1st of August 1880 to check smuggling, a special license to tap trees was required and an uniform rate of 2s. (Re. 1) was levied on every tree tapped. The holders of licenses were allowed to sell juice by retail at the foot of the tree, but the right to distil was vested exclusively in shopkeepers licensed to sell country liquor. In 1881-82 the tapping fee was raised to 12s. (Rs. 6) a tree; in 1882-83 it was reduced to 6s. (Rs. 3); in 1883-84 this reduced fee has been kept with the restriction that instead of allowing each shop to have its own distillery, only two distilleries are allowed for each of the coast and one for each of the upland sub-divisions.

The approximate area of land under cocoa-palms is given at 13,700 acres which at a rough acre average of 100 trees gives an approximate total of 1,370,000 trees. The number of trees licensed to be tapped in 1880-81 was 11,713. The new system met with some opposition, but it has been overcome. Juice-yielding palms fetch from 2s. to 6s. (Re. 1-Rs. 3) a year, the yield of juice varying from twenty-five to forty gallons (6-10 *mans*). Liquor-shop holders are licensed to make liquor and no separate licenses are issued for liquor-making. Fermented palm-juice or *tádi* costs 1d. to 1½d. (½-1 *anna*) the quart of sixty *tolás*. The two kinds of palm spirit most in use are the *chali* a weak and the *feni* a strong spirit. The light or *chali* costs 4½d. to 6d. (3-4 *as.*), and the strong or *feni* 9d. or 1s. 6d. (6-12 *as.*) a quart. The cost of making twelve quart bottles of the light spirit is 2s. 6d. (Rs. 1¼) and of the strong spirit or *feni* is 5s. (Rs. 2½). The stills, of which each farmer has generally one or two, must be worked close to the shops.

Palms grown solely for their nuts are calculated to yield on good coast garden land a net yearly profit of about £5 (Rs. 50) a hundred or 1s. (8 *as.*) a tree.¹

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¹ The details are: The yearly average return from 100 cocoa-palms is £12 10s. (Rs. 125) for 5000 cocoanuts at the rate of 5s. (Rs. 2½) the hundred; 16s. (Rs. 8) for 800 palm leaves at 2s. (Re. 1) the hundred; and £1 (Rs. 10) for the husk and shells of 5000 cocoanuts used as firewood; making a total return of £14 6s. (Rs. 143). The yearly average cost for 100 cocoa-palms is £2 (Rs. 20) for watering for four months fifty trees a day on alternate days at 10s. (Rs. 5) a month; 4s. (Rs. 2) towards building a well which costs about £10 (Rs. 100) and lasts for about fifty years; 10s. (Rs. 5) for fencing; £1 5s. 6d. (Rs. 12½) for Government assessment including local fund cess; £1 5s. (Rs. 12½) for manuring 100 trees at 3d. (2 *as.*) a tree; 3s. 1½d. (Rs. 1½) for cleaning 100 trees at ½d. (½ *anna*) a tree; 8s. 4d. (Rs. 4-2-8) for gathering cocoanuts four times in the year at ¼d. (½ *anna*) a tree; and